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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/388,935	09/02/1999	TADAMITSU MIYAWAKI	104144	4667

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EXAMINER
HAYES, JOHN W

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
3621	

DATE MAILED: 09/25/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/388,935	MIYAWAKI ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	John W Hayes	3621	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *04 August 2003* .

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1,4-7 and 11-15* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1,4-7 and 11-15* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *13 August 2002* is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11)☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a)☐ approved b)☐ disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☒ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ .
4) ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). *28* .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: .

DETAILED ACTION

Status of Claims

1. Claims 1, 5, 7 and 13 have been amended and claim 8 has been canceled in the amendment filed 04 August 2003. Claims 2-3 and 9-10 have been previously canceled. Thus, claims 1, 4-7 and 11-15 remain pending and are again presented for examination.

Drawings

2. The corrected or substitute drawings were received on 13 August 2002. These drawings are approved by the Draftsperson.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments filed 04 August 2003 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant asserts that Bowman fails to disclose, teach or even suggest that the summary information only accompanies the contents when the contents are encrypted. Examiner agrees with this assertion, however, has not relied upon Bowman for a teaching of this feature. Examiner has relied upon the reference to Downs to teach this aspect of applicant's claimed invention.

Applicant further asserts that Downs fails to disclose, teach or even suggest displaying summary information only if the contents are encrypted. Applicant argues that Downs discloses an electronic digital content store (EDCS) as an entity that markets contents and can be a website that provides electronic downloads of software. The EDCS includes a Content Acquisition Tool which opens the metadata SC and displays the non-encrypted information therein which includes extracted metadata such as a music sample, graphic images associated with a song and information describing the song and a preview clip of the song can also be listened to if included in the metadata SC (Downs, Col. 9 line 50-Col. 10 line 5 and Col. 73, lines 12-32. Examiner does not disagree with this characterization of Downs, however, this is only one interpretation of the teachings of Downs. Firstly, this particular reference within Downs is related

to an electronic digital content store that markets content for end users and the summary information is available and displayed only to the EDCS using the Content Acquisition Tool in order to package the content for use by end users. Secondly, Downs also discloses another embodiment wherein the content providers provide the promotional content for a fee and the EDCS cannot access this content since it is encrypted in the metadata SC and, therefore, can only access the encrypted metadata if they have the proper decryption key. Thus, Downs discloses two options for displaying summary information to the EDCS, one which is encrypted and one which is not, depending on the desires of the Content Provider. Downs discloses that the metadata is not freely available to end users since the metadata that is included with content distributed to users is encrypted and included in a secure container (Col. 38 line 21-Col. 39 line 20 and Col. 52, lines 40-51) and further teaches that the metadata information is not displayed to an end user unless it has been decrypted using the decryption information (Col. 9, lines 48-51; Col. 10, lines 19-24; Col. 18, items 125, 127, 132 and 148 in the table; Figure 15A, metadata controls/display; Col. 74, lines 25-35; Col. 81, lines 60-65; Col. 84, lines 44-67). Thus, examiner submits that Downs discloses summary information in many different forms; some of which is used by the EDCS in order to promote the content available for purchase by the consumer, thereby offering certain summary information to consumers without a fee such as sample content clips, the album a song is from or the artist. However, Downs also clearly discloses that some of the metadata (summary information) such as cover pictures, artist pictures, lyrics, track information, credits, composer, publisher, producer, sidemen, date of recording, date of release, etc. or any other metadata that is desired to be protected by the content provider is only available to the end user through payment and decryption (Col. 61, table; Col. 73, lines 20-40). Therefore, examiner submits that Downs discloses displaying summary information such as cover pictures, artist pictures, lyrics, track information, credits, or any other metadata that is desired to be protected only if the consumer has the proper decoding information.

With respect to claim 7, applicant asserts that the references fail to further disclose that list information is displayed upon decoding of the encrypted information by a user. Examiner respectfully disagrees with this assertion since Downs also discloses list information that shows the contents of the encrypted contents such as track list information or digital content library information regarding the

contents purchased and distributed from the EDCS (Figure 15A; Col. 84, lines 50-56; Col. 85, lines 20-25; Col. 86, lines 53-56) and this information is obviously only displayed after the user decrypts the encrypted content secure container.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

4. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

> The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

5. Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

As per **Claim 7**, the claim limitations recite that the "distribution device attaches list information showing the contents of said encrypted contents and summary information showing the summary to said encrypted contents and distributes said encrypted contents" and "wherein the list information is displayed upon decoding of the encrypted information by a user". Examiner submits that this language is not clear since it appears that neither the list information nor the summary information is encrypted. Since the claim recites that the list information is displayed upon decoding of the encrypted information by the user, examiner submits that its unclear what is meant by decoding the encrypted information. Is the encrypted information referring to the encrypted contents, list information or summary information? Examiner submits that its not clear which information is encrypted and which is not.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 1, 4-7, 11 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dillon, U.S. Patent No. 5,727,065 in view of Bowman et al, U.S. Patent No. 5,999,623 and Downs et al, U.S. Patent No. 6,226,618 B1.

As per **Claim 1**, Dillon discloses a contents distribution method for distributing digitized contents to plural users comprising:

- encrypting and distributing contents to plural users (Col. 1 line 65-Col. 2 line 7; Col. 6, lines 57-62),
- selecting by a user at least one of the encrypted content from a catalog (Col. 4, lines 5-20)
- decoding the encrypted contents and utilizing thereof by a user (Col. 2, lines 10-15; Col. 4, lines 12-18; Col. 6, lines 60-67; Col. 9 line 65-Col. 10 line 6), and
- executing accounting to the user according to said utilized contents (Col. 4, lines 15-20; Col. 5, lines 43-50; Col. 6, lines 19-24; Col. 7, lines 26-38; Col. 8, lines 28-43).

Dillon, however, fails to explicitly disclose that the encrypted contents are first distributed to users and wherein the users can then select at least one of the encrypted content from the distributed contents. Dillon discloses that a catalog of available contents is distributed to the plural users and further wherein the users can then select the content that they wish to receive. However, It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to modify the method of Dillon and distribute the available contents to the user and further allow the user to select the contents he/she is interested in after reception of the contents. Dillon teaches that this method is not necessary since it would waste resources by requiring the user to receive content not of interest. The motivation would be to allow the user to determine which content he/she wishes to receive and charging the user for only the content that he/she receives without wasting resources by requiring the user to receive content not of interest (Col. 11 line 65-Col. 12 line 5). Furthermore, Downs et al disclose an optional broadcast distribution method wherein content is preprogrammed so that all end user devices receive the same stream suggesting that all users would receive the same stream and select only the information they are interested in (Col. 78, lines 20-61). Thus, this provides further evidence that it would have been obvious

to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Dillon and distribute the available contents to the user and allow the user to select the contents he/she is interested in after the reception of the contents.

Dillon further fails to explicitly disclose providing decoding information accompanying encrypted contents, each decoding information specific to a user in the plural users. Bowman et al disclose a broadcast data access communication system in which users receive encrypted information such as video and data and use decryption information specific to each user (Col. 5, lines 9-46; Col. 7, lines 20-27; Col. 18, lines 40-57; Col. 23, lines 10-29) to decode and gain access to particular blocks of information within a bigger set of encrypted information and wherein the decoding information accompanies the encrypted contents (Figures 1, 1a and 1b; Col. 4, lines 54-67). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to modify the method of Dillon and include the ability to encode/decode the contents based on each individual user as taught by Bowman et al. Bowman et al provides motivation by indicating that this method would prevent non-authorized receiver stations from obtaining access to broadcast information and for enabling only authorized receiver stations to have access to the broadcast information (Col. 1, lines 45-55)

Dillon further discloses a contents distribution method including summary information showing a summary of the available contents (Col. 4, lines 5-7 and 53-60; Col. 6, lines 12-24 and 35-41), however, fails to specifically disclose that the summary information is attached to the encrypted contents and displayed only if decoding information determines which encrypted contents can be utilized by the user. Dillon teaches that the summary data is transmitted separately from the content data and in unencrypted form. Bowman et al further teaches a system wherein decoding information determines which encrypted contents can be utilized by the user, however, also fails to disclose summary information. Downs et al disclose an electronic content delivery system for providing digital content in secure containers to a plurality of users and further teach that summary information (Col. 9, lines 21-32) is included in the encrypted contents container (Col. 38 line 21-Col. 39 line 20 and Col. 52, lines 40-51) and wherein the summary information is not displayed unless it has been decrypted using the decryption information (Col. 9, lines 48-51; Col. 10, lines 19-24; Col. 18, items 125, 127, 132 and 148 in the table; Figure 15A, metadata controls/display; Col. 74, lines 25-35; Col. 81, lines 60-65; Col. 84, lines 44-67). It would have

been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the method of Dillon and Bowman et al and include the summary information in encrypted form along with the encrypted content information in a secure container and only displaying this information upon decryption of the secure container in view of the teachings of Downs et al. Downs et al provides motivation for encrypting the summary information so that it can be protected in the case where the content provider wants to charge a fee for the summary information (Col. 73, lines 33-40).

As per **Claims 4 and 15**, Dillon fails to disclose wherein the decoding is executed by a decoding key generated based upon first decoding information attached to the encrypted contents and second decoding information which is provided to the user. Bowman et al disclose the generation of a decoding key based upon decoding information attached to the encrypted contents (Figure 1a; Table 4; Col. 21, lines 23-61). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to modify the method of Dillon and include the ability to encode/decode the contents based on decoding information specific to each individual user as taught by Bowman et al. Bowman et al provides motivation by indicating that this method would prevent non-authorized receiver stations from obtaining access to broadcast information and for enabling only authorized receiver stations to have access to the broadcast information (Col. 1, lines 45-55)

As per **Claim 5**, Dillon further discloses wherein the contents mean a document displayed in a page unit (Col. 1, lines 55-65) and wherein the accounting is executed for the page unit (Col. 4, lines 16-20; Col. 7, lines 26-30).

As per **Claim 6**, Dillon further discloses wherein the distribution is executed by broadcast (Figure 1; Col. 3, lines 40-45).

As per **Claim 7**, Dillon discloses a contents distribution system that distributes digitized contents to plural users comprising:

- a distribution device that encrypts contents provided by a contents provider and distributes encrypted contents (Figure 1; Col. 4, lines 1-20),

- a user terminal that receives encrypted contents distributed by the distribution device (Figure 1; Col. 4, lines 12-18; Col. 6, lines 60-67; Col. 9 line 65-Col. 10 line 6), selects at least one encrypted content from a catalog (Col. 4, lines 5-20) and generates accounting information according to the utilization of the selected encrypted content (Col. 4, lines 15-20; Col. 5, lines 43-50; Col. 6, lines 19-24; Col. 7, lines 26-38; Col. 8, lines 28-43), and

- a central station that collects and totalizes accounting information generated by the user terminal (Col. 4, lines 15-20; Col. 7, lines 26-38; Col. 8, lines 28-43).

Dillon, however, fails to explicitly disclose that the encrypted contents are first distributed to users and wherein the users can then select at least one of the encrypted content from the distributed contents. Dillon discloses that a catalog of available contents is distributed to the plural users and further wherein the users can then select the content that they wish to receive. However, It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to modify the method of Dillon and distribute the available contents to the user and further allow the user to select the contents he/she is interested in after reception of the contents. Dillon teaches that this method is not necessary since it would waste resources by requiring the user to receive content not of interest. The motivation would be to allow the user to determine which content he/she wishes to receive and charging the user for only the content that he/she receives without wasting resources by requiring the user to receive content not of interest (Col. 11 line 65-Col. 12 line 5). Furthermore, Downs et al disclose an optional broadcast distribution method wherein content is preprogrammed so that all end user devices receive the same stream suggesting that all users would receive the same stream and select only the information they are interested in (Col. 78, lines 20-61). Thus, this provides further evidence that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Dillon and distribute the available contents to the user and allow the user to select the contents he/she is interested in after the reception of the contents.

Dillon further fails to explicitly disclose providing decoding information accompanying encrypted contents, each decoding information specific to a user in the plural users. Bowman et al disclose a

broadcast data access communication system in which users receive encrypted information such as video and data and use decryption information specific to each user (Col. 5, lines 9-46; Col. 7, lines 20-27; Col. 18, lines 40-57; Col. 23, lines 10-29) to decode and gain access to particular blocks of information within a bigger set of encrypted information and wherein the decoding information accompanies the encrypted contents (Figures 1, 1a and 1b; Col. 4, lines 54-67). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to modify the method of Dillon and include the ability to encode/decode the contents based on each individual user as taught by Bowman et al. Bowman et al provides motivation by indicating that this method would prevent non-authorized receiver stations from obtaining access to broadcast information and for enabling only authorized receiver stations to have access to the broadcast information (Col. 1, lines 45-55)

Dillon further discloses a contents distribution method including summary information showing a summary of the available contents (Col. 4, lines 5-7 and 53-60; Col. 6, lines 12-24 and 35-41), however, fails to specifically disclose that the summary information is attached to the encrypted contents and displayed only if decoding information determines which encrypted contents can be utilized by the user. Dillon teaches that the summary data is transmitted separately from the content data and in unencrypted form. Bowman et al further teaches a system wherein decoding information determines which encrypted contents can be utilized by the user, however, also fails to disclose summary information. Downs et al disclose an electronic content delivery system for providing digital content in secure containers to a plurality of users and further teach that summary information and list information (Col. 9, lines 21-32) is included in the encrypted contents container (Col. 38 line 21-Col. 39 line 20 and Col. 52, lines 40-51; Col. 29, lines 30-35) and wherein the summary information and list information is not displayed unless it has been decrypted using the decryption information (Col. 9, lines 48-51; Col. 10, lines 19-24; Col. 18, items 125, 127, 132 and 148 in the table; Figure 15A, metadata controls/display; Col. 74, lines 25-35; Col. 81, lines 60-65; Col. 84, lines 44-67; Col. 85, lines 1-50). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the method of Dillon and Bowman et al and include the summary information and list information in encrypted form along with the encrypted content information in a secure container and only displaying this information upon decryption of the secure container in view of the teachings of Downs et

al. Downs et al provides motivation for encrypting the summary information and list information so that it can be protected in the case where the content provider wants to charge a fee for the summary information (Col. 73, lines 33-40).

As per **Claim 11**, Dillon further discloses wherein the distribution is executed by broadcast (Figure 1; Col. 3, lines 40-45).

8. Claims 12-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dillon, U.S. Patent No. 5,727,065, Bowman et al, U.S. Patent No. 5,999,623 and Downs et al, U.S. Patent No. 6,226,618 B1 as applied above and in further view of Stefik et al, U.S. Patent No. 5,634,012.

As per **Claims 12 and 13**, Dillon discloses a contents distribution system wherein the user terminal comprises:

- a data sink that receives encrypted contents distributed from the distribution device (Col. 2, lines 10-15; Col. 6, lines 60-65),
- a data output part that decodes the encrypted contents (Col. 2, lines 10-15; Col. 4, lines 15-20; Col. 6 line 64-Col. 7 line 5) and generates accounting information according to the quantity of utilized decoded contents (Col. 4, lines 15-20; Col. 5, lines 43-50; Col. 6, lines 19-24; Col. 7, lines 26-38; Col. 8, lines 28-43)

Dillon, Bowman et al and Downs et al fail to specifically disclose a printer that prints the contents. Stefik et al disclose a system for controlling the distribution and use of digital information and teach wherein a printer is used to print a certain number of copies of the decoded information (Col. 38, lines 21-62) and performs closing transaction steps including initiating a charging transaction based upon the quantity of the utilized contents (Col. 33, lines 48-59). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the method of Dillon, Bowman et al and Downs et al and incorporate the ability to not only display the decoded content, but also print the decoded content and charge a fee for printing of the document as taught by Stefik et al. The motivation would be to provide the convenience to the user of

having the ability to render the digital content by using a printer so that it could be carried in hardcopy form. It also would provide a benefit to the content provider by allowing the content provider to charge a fee for printing the content as taught by Stefik et al.

As per **Claim 14**, Dillon discloses a contents distribution system wherein the user terminal comprises:

- a data sink that receives encrypted contents distributed from the distribution device (Col. 2, lines 10-15; Col. 6, lines 60-65),
- a display that decodes the encrypted contents and displays the contents (Col. 1, lines 60-65; Col. 2, lines 10-15; Col. 4, lines 15-20; Col. 6 line 64-Col. 7 line 5) and generates accounting information according to the quantity of utilized decoded contents (Col. 4, lines 15-20; Col. 5, lines 43-50; Col. 6, lines 19-24; Col. 7, lines 26-38; Col. 8, lines 28-43)

Dillon also discloses that the content includes text, software, images and full-motion video, however, Dillon, Bowman et al and Downs et al fail to specifically disclose displaying the contents and generating accounting information specifically according to the number of pages included in the displayed contents. Stefik et al disclose a system for controlling the distribution and use of digital information and teach wherein the user device is used to display the digital contents such as rendering it for reading (Col. 37, lines 60-67) and performs closing transaction steps including initiating a charging transaction based upon the quantity of the utilized contents (Col. 38, lines 19-21; Col. 33, lines 48-59). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the method of Dillon, Bowman et al and Downs et al and incorporate the ability to not only display the decoded content, but also print the decoded content and charge a fee for displaying or printing of the document based upon the number of pages in the content as taught by Stefik et al. The motivation would be to permit the user to display the received content thereby making it useful. It also would provide a benefit to the content provider by allowing the content provider to charge a fee for displaying the content as taught by Stefik et al.

C nclusion

9. The prior art previously made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

- Mason discloses a method of encrypting broadcast television signals and teaches wherein each customer has a unique key in order to decrypt the broadcast signal and provide different entitlements to each customer
- Hirose discloses a scrambling method for data broadcasting and teaches encrypting each type of news data with a separate key so that each user can be assigned different access to the information based on which keys they posses.
- Richards discloses a method for providing a hierarchical key system for restricted access television systems and teaches wherein each customer can be granted access to certain programs in the broadcast based upon which key they posses.
- Steinberg et al disclose a software fingerprinting and branding method wherein the content is decoded using key information which is only known by the user and wherein identification of the user is embedded in the encoding program. The user is not given access unless the user provides the key along with identification data.
- Yuval et al disclose a method for controlling unauthorized access to information distributed to users and teach that the information is decoded using keys that are based upon user information such as name, credit card number, etc.
- Chou et al disclose a method of software distribution protection using a key that relies upon a unique factor such as a serial number or profile or fingerprint of the users computer.
- Saito discloses a secure data broadcasting system wherein encrypted content is broadcast to users that decode the information
- Kazmierczak et al disclose a cryptographic system for effecting metered purchases of encrypted data for a local encrypted database

- Peterson, Jr. discloses a system for distribution of secured content wherein the user decrypts the content and is available for viewing during a certain timeframe
- Ginter et al disclose a system and method for secure transaction management wherein content is distributed to users and assigned certain rights for accessing the data
- Choy discloses the distribution of content to users wherein a protection specification including information for controlling the use of the content is attached to the content and transported together
- Kocher et al disclose a secure cryptographic rights unit for cryptographically regulating access to digital content distributed over a network
- WO 90/02382 discloses an information distribution system that provides encrypted information to a user that corresponds to criteria individually selected by the user and then charges the user only for the selected information provided
- Thyfault, Mary E., "Data From Above", discloses a satellite service that broadcasts encrypted information to users and are charged for the amount of information downloaded.

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John Hayes whose telephone number is (703)306-5447. The examiner can normally be reached Monday through Friday from 5:30 to 3:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jim Trammell, can be reached on (703) 305-9768.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1113.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington D.C. 20231

or faxed to:

(703)305-7687 [Official communications; including After Final communications labeled "Box AF"]

(703) 746-5531 [Informal/Draft communications, labeled "PROPOSED" or "DRAFT"]

Hand delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park 5, 2451 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA, 7th floor receptionist.

John W. Hayes
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3621

September 24, 2003